

What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 10, 2003

MPDC RESPONDS TO INCREASE IN NATIONAL THREAT CONDITION

For detailed information on the District's CCTV system, including the location of cameras, visit:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm

In conjunction with the federal government's decision Friday to raise the National Threat Condition level to "High" (Orange), the MPDC has heightened its emergency response level from Level I to Level II. The Department has three response levels, with Level III being the highest. As part of this upgrade, the MPDC has activated its Joint Operations

Command Center, including the network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in downtown DC, for round-the-clock operation until further notice. Security around District government facilities has been enhanced, and the MPDC is working closely with other local and federal agencies on information-sharing and response. Chief Ramsey emphasized that the heightened response level will not diminish regular patrols in DC neighborhoods. The District has no plans to cancel any upcoming public events, and residents are encouraged to continue with their regular work and travel plans, but to be more aware and vigilant. Anyone who observes a suspicious package or activity is advised to call police immediately on 9-1-1. For more information, check the MPDC News Room:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.shtm

As always, DC residents are encouraged to take common-sense preparations in the case of any emergency. For information and ideas, view DC's Family Emergency Preparedness Guide:

dcema.dc.gov/info/guide.shtm

NEW POLICE VISIBILITY MEASURES INCLUDE REGULAR "BLOCK SURVEYS"

To find out what police district and Police Service Area (PSA) in which you live and work, and to access additional contact information, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/districts.shtm

As part of a concerted effort to enhance police visibility and improve communication between officers and residents, the MPDC has begun a new "block survey" program in all seven police districts. Under the initiative, some PSA officers in each district are spending up to an hour a day outside their squad cars visiting individual residents and businesses. Officers typically concentrate on a one-block area at a time. During these contacts, officers are asking residents about crime and

disorder concerns in their communities and are noting specific problems. These observations can then become part of the action plans within those PSAs. In the case of quality-of-life concerns, service requests can be generated for follow-up by other city agencies. Each district is determining its own schedule of block surveys. For more information on this program, contact your PSA lieutenant or your district commander's office.

Another police visibility measure – having officers patrol with the flashing lights activated on their marked police cruisers – remains in effect. To learn more about this practice, visit:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

NEWS & NOTES

- **Washington Boat Show.** Interested in learning more about boating regulations and safety? Visit the MPDC Harbor Patrol at this year's Washington Boat Show, February 13-17, at the Washington Convention Center. Or go online to: **mpdc.dc.gov/info/season/harborpatrol.shtm**

"OPERATION FIGHT BACK": MULTI-AGENCY PROGRAM TARGETS NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME AND DISORDER

On February 5, the MPDC, joined by other police and government agencies in DC, launched the first of what will be an ongoing series of day-long, multi-agency operations targeting drug trafficking, other criminal activity and quality-of-life concerns in targeted DC neighborhoods. Called "Operation Fight Back," the first implementation targeted the 4400 and 4500 blocks of Gault Place, NE, identified by Sixth District Commander Willie Dandridge as a problem area for drugs and related activity. The "Fight Back" strategy involves serving arrest warrants, towing abandoned vehicles, cleaning up trash and reaching out to residents in the community. During this inaugural action, 6D police served an arrest warrant for a homicide suspect wanted in a January double shooting at 20th and N Streets, NW. The overall operation was spearheaded by 6D, and included the US Park Police and several DC government agencies. Following the success of this past week's coordinated action, Chief Ramsey announced that similar operations will be carried out on a regular basis in all seven police districts. Read the complete news release at:

Each police district has a Focused Mission Team that concentrates on drug trafficking and other criminal hot spots on a daily basis. To discuss their activities in your district, contact your Focused Mission Team lieutenant.

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC PROVIDING VICTIMS WITH POLICE REPORTS FREE OF CHARGE

The MPDC has announced that its Public Documents Section, as well as all police district stations, will now provide copies of incident reports (PD Form 251s) free of charge at the request of the complainant, the complainant's spouse, or the parent or guardian of a juvenile complainant. The requester must appear in person and provide valid photo identification. There are two exceptions to the policy. In domestic assault cases, a copy of the report will be provided to the complainant only. In homicide cases, requesters are directed to contact the detective assigned to the case for copies of reports. All other requesters are charged a small fee for copies of incident reports and other MPDC documents and services: \$3 for copies of incident and accident (PD-10) reports; \$7 for a police clearance (criminal history background check for a citizen seeking employment). The MPDC Records Division now requires money orders for police clearances and mail-in requests for incident and accident reports. Money orders are preferred for walk-in requests for police reports. Read the news release at:

For detailed information on requesting and obtaining police reports and related services, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/serv/reports/reports.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

NEWS & NOTES

- Non-emergency number. Effective February 24, the MPDC will phase out its seven-digit non-emergency telephone number – 727-1010 – and will instead direct all non-emergency calls to 3-1-1, the toll-free number for police non-emergencies. Non-emergency callers from outside DC will be directed to call the MPDC on (202) 737-4404. To learn more about 3-1-1, go to: mpdc.dc.gov/info/phone/311.shtm

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with Crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV